Alleghenytown Jan. 29th 1838

To the Society of Inquiry on Missions in
the Theological Seminary of Princeton

Dear brethren

With great satisfaction we acknowledge the receipt of a letter from your Corresponding Secretary requesting that a correspondence may be commenced between our societies. Most cordially do we yield to this request. Too long have Christians assimilated in opinion, the same in aim and prospect, regarded each other with an eye of jealousy. But we trust the time now is, when the impropriety of such conduct is clearly seen. It is true error must be exposed, & errorists put down, if we would comply with the requisitions of our divine Master, and preserve pure that faith he hath given us: but surely there is a wide difference between the exposure of doctrines whose tendency is corrupt. and the fermentation of religious controversy. We, therefore rejoice to meet you on common ground, and unite with you in advancing the cause of our Lord and Master.

As this is our first letter, a brief sketch of the history and prospects of our society may not be altogether devoid of interest We assumed our present organization in the early part of the year 1836. Previous to that time there had been a missionary Society connected with the Seminary but so inefficient were its measures that it scarcely deserved the name. Many of its members conscious of this, and influenced by a zeal to which its regulations set bounds, resolved to form themselves into a new Society. A committee was accordingly appointed to draft a constitution. The chairman of this committee was Mr. Galaway formerly of Princeton. The result of this appointment was a constitution in many respects like your own. It was adopted and signed by nearly all the students of the Seminary. Some, however, have since withdrawn their names. Under this constitution we have continued to act with encouraging prospects. The yearly accession of students to the Seminary adds to our numbers, and enables us to carry on our operations with increasing vigor. One only, however, of our number has yet devoted himself to the cause of Miſsions. But we trust that others will in due time arise among us who shall follow his example and go as miſsionaries to a heathen world. We live in hopes that many will here be nurtured who will carry the tidings of salvation to those who are now perishing for lack of Knowledge

It is to us a subject of joy to learn that so large a number of you have determined personally to engage in the work of Miſsions, and we trust that number will increase. It is with pleasure also we learn that the board of Miſsions connected with your church contemplate to carry on their operations so extensively during the current year. We have no hesitancy in saying that their expectations in regard the amount of money they shall require will be fully answered.

Information respecting our church you will find more in detail than we could give it, in the minutes of Synod a copy of which you will receive with this letter

Whatever inteligence you may think worthy of communicating to us, we shall gladly receive; and we shall endeavour to give you knowledge of those things which may occur among us, relating to the great object we both have in view.

Yours &c.

J. Mehard cor. sec. soc. of In.

Ans'd Jan. 29th 1839.

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To the Society of Inquiry on
Miſsions in the Theological
Seminary of Princeton
New Jersey